

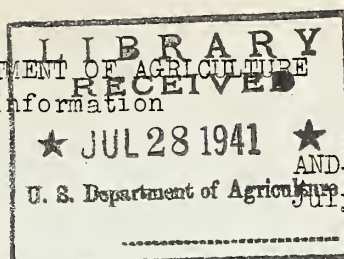
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information

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AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

DIRECTOR M. CLIFFORD TOWNSEND, OF THE OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL DEFENSE RELATIONS, this week outlined agriculture's place in the defense picture and warned the Nation's farmers that they face all of the disturbances to be found in a "war-time" economy. Speaking before the Mid-West Training School, American Farm Bureau Federation, University of Illinois, on July 21, Director Townsend called for all-out production of the food products needed by Great Britain. Two days later, before the International Baby Chick Association, meeting in Kansas City, Mo., he urged preparation against the pinch of priorities. Excerpts from the Training School talk: "The food-for-defense program is a part--one of the most important parts--of our all-out defense effort. Food is a defense weapon, one of the strongest we have. Without food, Britain and the other nations resisting aggression cannot continue to stand between the United States and the Hitler menace. This is not an age where a continent can be isolated from war. War is not fought by guns alone but by political and economic infiltration, by sudden, lightning movements that strike without warning, by attacks upon the nerves of a nation. In the gigantic clash between slave control and democracy, there is no such thing as neutrality. You are either 'fur or agin,' and actions cannot be governed by any fixed rules, but must be determined at least in part by developments of the moment. You and I, as farmers, know what it means to be protected against sudden dangers. If a great grass fire is raging all around our farm, we don't sit back on our porch chairs and scoff at the danger. We dig ditches. We draw our water in buckets. We organize our folks to stand guard. The fire is raging around us today, and you and I here in the Middle West are just as deeply concerned in the outcome as the British farmer who is trying to till his soil between raids."

Before the International Baby Chick Association, Director Townsend declared that in order to produce the food needed for this country and Great Britain "agriculture must have the equipment, implements and services to carry out its work." Other excerpts: "One of the most important jobs of the Office of Agricultural Defense Relations has been to present agriculture's case before the defense officials who are responsible for granting priorities for metals, chemicals and other strategic materials. We soon discovered that this was largely a matter of understanding, and as soon as the priorities officials understood why agriculture needed certain things, we received the fullest sympathy and cooperation. This sympathetic attitude does not mean that we can expect to get for agriculture everything we want or need. Priorities and rationing, which may be expected to increase greatly as our defense program develops, are already affecting poultry equipment, milking equipment, fencing, steel grain bins, tractors and some farm machinery. Nitrates, the basis for explosives as well as for fertilizers, may be affected soon. Other chemicals and drugs for insecticides, fungicides, and disinfectants are likely to be short. The shortage of farm labor, the increased cost of things farmers buy, and all of the other things that make up a war-time economy must be faced by farmers planning for the future."

BECAUSE OF DEFENSE NEEDS FOR ADHESIVES the Department is exploring the possibility of increasing commercial production of soybean protein by utilization of a process developed by Department chemists. The objective is to obtain sufficient supplies of soybean protein to make up for growing shortages of casein, an adhesive necessary to defense industries and housing. Department chemists say the adhesive qualities of the soybean protein are fully equivalent to casein. Chemists began working on the problem of extracting the protein from soybeans in a commercially practicable fashion more than 4 years ago in the Soybean Research Laboratory at Urbana, Ill. At that time defense needs were not in the picture, but because of this pioneer research work the soybean protein is now available to help offset the present threat to defense production caused by restricted casein supplies. Because casein is a milk derivative its production is limited and is becoming progressively more limited by the increased demand for milk in edible form under the food-for-defense program and the Lend-Lease Act. For this reason the Office of Agricultural Defense Relations has made arrangements for the Soybean Research Laboratory to study the possibilities of increased production of soybean protein. To obtain the required amount of soybean protein, productive capacity will have to be at least tripled. Only one plant is at present producing a refined soybean protein. In addition to its qualities as an equivalent for casein, new uses have been developed for soybean protein which are not in competition with casein. Furthermore, it is expected that other new uses will be developed for proteins like casein and soybean, thus increasing the total tonnage consumed by industry. In this way it is expected that when the present defense emergency is over there will be room for both casein and increased supplies of soybean protein.

TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR NEARLY 10,000 DEFENSE WORKERS will be completed shortly by Farm Security Administration. Located in 20 places, in 14 States, the finished, or soon to be finished, projects will furnish living quarters for 5,798 single men and 3,784 families employed in defense industries. Locations of "stopgap" trailers, demountable dormitories, and family houses available to employees of shipyards, powder, plane, and steel plants extend from Hartford, Conn., to Bremerton, Wash. The job of supplying and managing the temporary housing was assigned to FSA by the Office of the Housing Coordinator early this spring after the need was outlined and funds appropriated in the Urgent Deficiency Bill. FSA was chosen to handle the "stopgap" housing program because of its experience in developing and operating both permanent and mobile shelters for agricultural migrants. The temporary shelter program aims at meeting the need for emergency housing in crowded defense areas where population growth has outstripped building of new houses. It is designed to fill the gap between the time the need for shelter becomes evident and the time when permanent housing can be provided.

TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS BY THE ARMED FORCES for recreation facilities, such as rest camps and week-end recreation camps, the Forest Service has authorized its Regional offices to grant special use permits to the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Corps without respect to the usual acreage limitations prescribed in use permits. The Forest Service will endeavor to avoid disrupting present recreation developments as much as possible, while at the same time meeting the recreation needs of service men and new concentrations of defense populations. Permits may also be granted by the regional foresters for the use of National Forest lands for training trips and temporary maneuvers, including overnight camps.

SUMMARY OF FOREIGN DEVELOPMENTS

CHINA: The United States Agricultural Attache at Shanghai tentatively estimates all China 1941 wheat crop, excluding Manchuria, at 720,000,000 bushels compared with 700,000,000 bushels estimated for last year. Additional reports received since, making the current estimate, indicate a poor North China harvest but this probably is offset by increased production in Central China. It is doubtful if any increased amounts of wheat will be available to Chinese mills in Shanghai for manufacture of flour for local consumption. It is believed any additional amounts collected will go to Japanese mills for use of their own nationals. Flour stocks continue very high in Shanghai at about 1,800,000 bags sufficient for several months' consumption. Rice stocks in Shanghai are still quite heavy and while the rice crop seems to be developing more favorably than last year, large consuming centers will still be dependent upon important foreign imports. Owing to the drop in the price of rice, demand for flour as a substitute is not so large, although prices still seem to be in favor of flour.

Recent cotton crop reports from occupied North China indicate good germination but that insect damage has affected certain areas.

Arrivals of domestic cotton at Shanghai continued low and almost exclusively for local Japanese mills. Foreign imports showed less decrease than expected. General level of Shanghai stocks of raw cotton are sufficient for four or five months' mill requirements at present rate of operation. Important purchases of Brazilian have been made, but little American was bought as price parity widened. Purchases of Indian cotton have been very small due to a shortage of shipping.

In Manchuria the cotton control law of 1939 has been superseded by a new law controlling fibers and manufactures thereof promulgated June 23, 1941, effective July 1. This law requires all imports, exports, purchases, sales, and movement are to be made only by parties designated by the Minister of Economics and with his permission and at prices approved or officially fixed by him.

DENMARK: Unemployment at present is the lowest since 1929 because of seasonal activities in the farming and peat industries plus well-sustained industrial production of many types of goods for Germany. Agricultural production shows milk and butter 35 percent, egg production 50 percent, pork production 40 percent, lower than last year. Industrial production index has risen to 94 as compared with 89 three months ago. Excellent rains improved crop outlook in the latter part of June, after very dry conditions in May, but July has been very dry and unless some rain comes shortly crop estimates may have to be revised. Winter wheat has weathered well as have the other cereals. Present outlook is that there will be sufficient bread grain with fairly good supply of grain for cattle but the grass and hay situation for cattle is not good. Seed crops are reported as being considerably below average. All food supplies are still plentiful and health conditions of both the human and animal populations are excellent.

SWEDEN: Flour and bread rationing was extended July 17 to include macaroni, corn flakes, rice flakes, and maizena flour.

